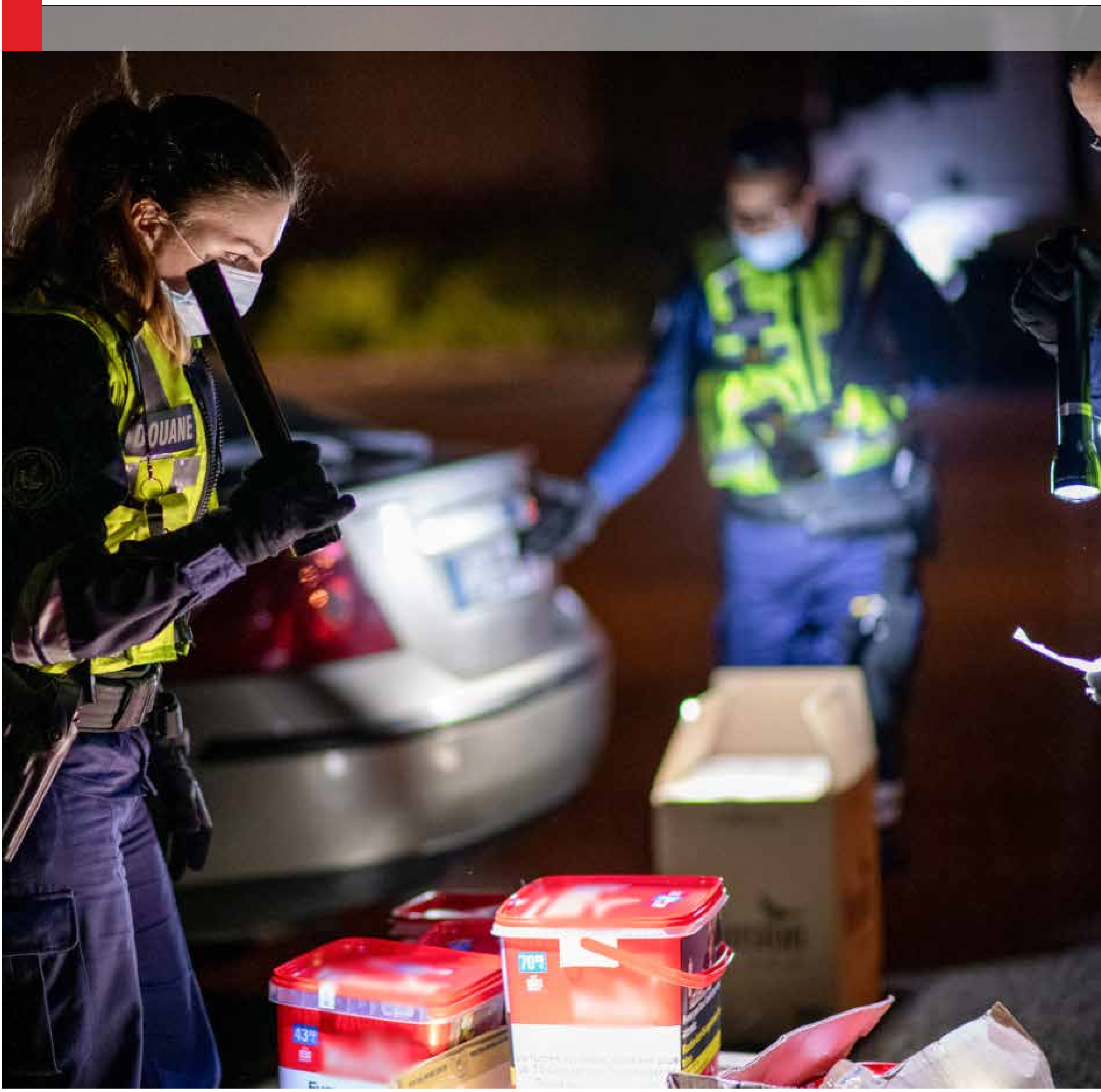
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

DOUANES & DROITS INDIRECTS

FRENCH CUSTOMS ANNUAL REPORT
2021



EDITORIAL



Bruno Le Maire
Minister of the Economy,
Finance and Recovery



Olivier Dussopt
Minister Delegate reporting to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery, with responsibility for Public Accounts

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In 2021, despite the fact that the COVID 19 pandemic was still rife, French Customs was able, more than ever, to manage France's borders and secure flows of goods.

The constant commitment of customs officers was reflected by a year of unprecedented seizures across all areas of intervention and, notably, in the fight against drug trafficking, as 18.6 tonnes of cocaine and 74.9 tonnes of cannabis were intercepted.

These extraordinary results demonstrate that French Customs, once again, met the expectations of both citizens and businesses. Every day, it strives to effectively combat all the illegal trafficking that poses a threat to France and French society, protect citizens and the environment, promote the appeal of ports and airports, and assist French companies with their international transactions. French Customs acts to safeguard France's economic sovereignty.

As customs requirements remain high, we have introduced a strategy to bolster capabilities and professions related to all types of borders (physical, digital and maritime) and to goods. It aims to address current and future challenges and expectations: Brexit, e commerce, threats from organised crime, improving businesses' competitiveness, etc.

Moreover, the strategy draws on a Service Level and Resources Contract which was signed on 1 December 2021 by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI), the Budget Directorate and the Ministry's Secretariat General. The contract underpins the objective of having a strong customs administration and provides for a stable workforce and level of material resources for the coming four years.

Based on 2021 results, French Customs is fully primed to tackle future challenges. France is able to rely on the professionalism of women and men who are driven by values of irreproachability, thoroughness and responsiveness which make up the DNA of French Customs and the public service.


AIRFRANCE
AIRFRANCE
DOUANE
DOUANE



CONTENTS

2021 KEY FIGURES

ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES

> Narcotics

In France and in international waters



115.4 t

seized

(+30.10% over 2020)

18.62 t	74.86 t	466 kg
cocaine	cannabis	heroin
(+105.5% over 2020)	(+24.1% over 2020)	(+29.5% over 2020)

Abroad based on intelligence provided by French Customs

81.2 t

seized

of which

10.9 t cocaine

70.3 t cannabis

> Smuggled Tobacco

18,284

citations

(+18.4% over 2020)



402.1 t

seized

(on French territory)

(+41.3% over 2020)

> Financial Fraud

€125.1M

in seized or identified assets

(+179% over 2020)



330 money laundering cases (+52%)

€439.5M recovered (+44.2%)

> Consumer Protection

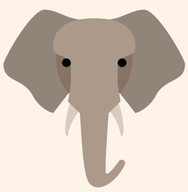


3.82 M

toys inspected

(+20%)

> Protection of Endangered Species



371

citations

(+40%)

> Weapons



805

seizures

(+72.3%)

> Counterfeits



9.1 M

items withdrawn from the market

(+62%)

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

2’12’’

average time that goods are immobilised

(13 minutes in 2004)

82.5 %

satisfaction rate

among customs users

> Customs Certification

1,856 AEOs*

*** Authorised Economic Operators**

#2 in Europe

435 IMFs*

***“Made in France” label information requests**

processed in 2021

2,093

companies

provided with advice by French Customs’ Economic Action Centres

> Taxation

€ 73.55bn

levied

> Human Resources

16,748

OFFICERS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

— **The United Kingdom becomes a non-EU country**

— Lille customs officers seize 26 tonnes of used tyres



FEBRUARY

— **Olivier Dussopt presents French Customs' 2021–2022 anti-counterfeiting action plan at Roissy airport**

— Seizure of over 17 tonnes of hookah tobacco from a lorry in the Greater Paris Region

— Customs officers in Bourges seize 918 kilos of cannabis pollen



MARCH

— **Return of 25,000 archaeological objects to Morocco**

— The Rouen customs unit seizes over a tonne of cocaine in the port of Rouen

— French Customs kick-starts the "equality in the workplace" campaign



APRIL

— The Amiens Regional Directorate donates 53 seized CITES items (furs, tortoise shells, crocodile skulls, etc.) to the city's zoo

— **Unprecedented seizure of over three tonnes of cannabis resin by customs officers in Avignon**

— Renewal of the French Customs/French Patent Office (INPI) anti-counterfeiting agreement



MAY

— The National Directorate for Customs Intelligence and Investigations (DNRED) dismantles the "parallel world" platform on the darknet

— **Exhibition at the Louvre of sealed cultural treasures seized by French Customs**

— Customs officers from the Halluin Rekhem unit seize almost 47 kilos of amphetamine paste

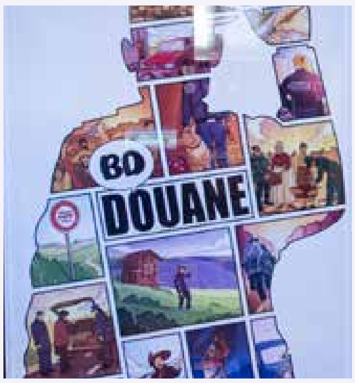


JUNE

— The Bourges unit seizes almost 347 kilos of cannabis pollen in a load of fruit

— Saint Aybert customs officers seize £832,000 (over €973,000)

— **30 June: BD Douane exhibition opens at the National Customs Museum**



JULY

- New VAT rules for e-commerce
- French Customs takes part in the "Made in France" exhibition held at the Élysée Palace
- **French Customs march along the Champs Élysées for the 14 July celebrations**
- The French Customs team takes part in the Tokyo Olympic Games



AUGUST

- The DNRED seizes 256 kilos of cocaine hidden in a container having been shipped from the French West Indies
- **Thionville customs officers seize 50 litres of liquid amphetamine**
- Destruction of 10,000 hazardous toys by Strasbourg Entzheim customs officers
- Seizure of 700 kilos of cannabis pollen by the DNRED and the Bourges unit



SEPTEMBER

- The Lyon unit seizes 403 kilos of cannabis herb concealed in a load of watermelons
- **The National Customs Coast Guard Directorate (DNGCD) seizes 4.2 tonnes of cannabis resin from a fishing boat in the southern Mediterranean**



OCTOBER

- French Customs' sustainable development week
- The Aix-les-Thermes unit seizes 440 cartons of cigarettes from Andorra
- **French Customs takes part in the Milipol trade fair**



NOVEMBER

- Blagnac customs officers seize around 16,000 counterfeit automobile and telephony items
- **Launch of the France Sésame platform and transfer of Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) import inspection duties to French Customs**
- Hendaye customs officers make three seizures totalling 1.7 tonnes of cannabis in under 72 hours



DECEMBER

- **The multiannual Service Level and Resources Contract is signed by the Director General of Customs, the Budget Director and the Secretary General of the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery**
- Le Havre customs officers seize 12,500 non-compliant and hazardous cosmetic products
- Aulnay-sous-Bois customs officers seize 19,200 watches and jewellery items containing lead and nickel
- First dismantling of a clandestine cigarette factory by the Marne-la-Vallée unit




OUANE
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01

MANAGING BORDERS

> Handling the return of a third-country border with the UK

> The e-commerce boom, a challenge for the digital border

> French Customs, the single contact point on the maritime border

MANAGING BORDERS

BREXIT



As the government department responsible for borders, French Customs operates on land and maritime borders, but it also monitors digital borders to protect France in an ever-changing global landscape.

In 2021, it stepped up its border capabilities to address a myriad of challenges.

> Handling the return of a third-country border with the UK since 1 January 2021

On 1 January 2021, the third-country border with the UK was reintroduced.

This represents a major challenge for French Customs which is at the forefront of Brexit management. It came about by the UK's withdrawal from the Customs Union and internal market, and the restoration of customs procedures for all goods traded between the UK and EU.

The Hauts-de-France region with its **cross-Channel border** is the leading crossing point for goods being shipped from and to the UK and, as such, has a strategic position in the new system. To maintain seamless cross-Channel border flows (tunnel, ports of Calais and Dunkirk) as from 1 January 2021, French Customs rolled out the innovative Smart Border system for anticipating and automating customs procedures for economic operators.

On average, 80% of lorries which went through this cross-Channel border in 2021 did not have to stop due to the fact that French Customs had introduced a dedicated information system called the Brexit IS. This meant that only 20% of lorries stopped at the border to finalise their procedures or to undergo a customs or sanitary inspection.

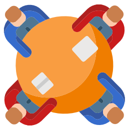
Throughout 2021, French Customs conducted an information and communication campaign for businesses, using videos and social media posts, to enable them to comply with their new customs obligations and the Smart Border process.

These initiatives are slated to continue in 2022 to help companies (which are often "new importers") better manage their trade and logistics channels, and the constraints raised by carrying out clearance procedures.

French Customs also worked with other government departments responsible for veterinary and sanitary inspections to guarantee seamless border crossing procedures.

All the customs departments were very closely involved in ensuring efficient management of Brexit. Besides departments in the Hauts-de-France Inter-Regional Directorate, customs departments throughout France managed to handle the sharp increase in clearance operations, as Brexit led to a 62% rise in transit declarations processed by French offices and 6.5 times more export declarations for which exiting the Union customs territory took place from France.





80

Brexit meetings and webinars

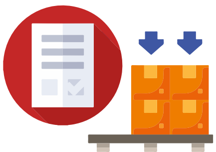


3.6m

lorries used the Smart Border system in 2021

+33%

import declarations filed in France following Brexit



In addition, businesses needed to get ready for the gradual reintroduction of British customs procedures as from 1 January 2022. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the UK introduced a new framework compared to traditional trade agreements.

Many operators applied for a **REX number** in order to be given registered exporter status which allows statements on origin to be issued for shipments worth more than €6,000 and provides exemption from customs duties for exports to the UK.

Since January 2021, the Directorate General's departments have been rolling out an IT changeover to allow all companies with a REX number to use it for exports to the UK. On 31 December 2021, **France had 12,854 registered exporters (REXs)** compared with 8,873 at the start of the year (up 45%).

MANAGING BORDERS

> The e-commerce boom, a challenge for the digital border

After becoming a predominant trend over the past decade, the e-commerce boom has been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, e-commerce accounted for 13.4% of retail sales compared to 10% in 2019. It is thought that 22% of online purchases lead to an import transaction.

- The European Commission drafted the **VAT e-commerce package** to tackle the VAT avoidance tactics of some e-commerce operators. The plan also counters the adverse effects for EU traders and inequality between brick-and-mortar retailers and e-commerce sellers.



It took effect on 1 July 2021 and has the following three features:

- abolishment of the VAT exemption for imports of small consignments with a value of up to €22 from non-EU countries;
- requirement to file a customs declaration irrespective of the value of the imported goods;
- creation of a Mini One Stop Shop (MOSS) for VAT and VAT collection by e-commerce websites from their customers.

With the new system, the European Commission estimates that €7bn in VAT could be collected in the EU on transactions which previously went untaxed.

Also according to estimates, in France, 300 to 400 million parcels could be shipped, declared and taxed every year, compared to 15 million previously.

French Customs conducted a wide-reaching information campaign for professionals and individuals on its website and on social media to inform them of these sweeping changes.

To handle the flow volumes and an anticipated surge in inspections of postal parcels, French Customs is making arrangements and developing new resources.

France = second largest EU e-commerce market behind Germany

1.8bn online transactions in 2020 (+5.8%)

Online transactions generated €112bn in turnover

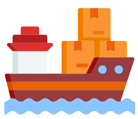
It is devising risk analysis and targeting techniques to make better use of its databases by calling on its Risk Analysis and Targeting Department (SARC).

- **Stepping up physical inspections of parcels** to search for banned or regulated goods. In the long term, the departments will be equipped with new scanners.
- **Searching for online fraud** before goods are sold with the help of the DNRED's Cyberdouane department.
- **Conducting ex-post surveys** to identify massive fraud involving understating the value of a great many customs declarations.



41.6m

online buyers



4m

international freight cargo shipments



€61

value of the average e-commerce basket

> French Customs, the single contact point on the maritime border

Having originated from the governmental plan to improve maritime logistics performance levels in France, the public, digital and free **platform, France Sésame**, was set up through a partnership between French Customs, the Directorate General for Food (DGAL), the DGCCRF and the Directorate General for Infrastructure, Transport and the Sea (DGITM). It was commissioned on 17 November 2021 with the aim of making imports of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) goods into the major seaports of Le Havre, Dunkirk and Marseille streamlined and seamless. In 2022, the platform will be progressively extended to include other French ports.

Setting up a single digital contact point at the borders is one of the cornerstones of the governmental action plan which was unveiled by the Prime Minister on 16 September 2019.

Even today, over 40% of containers bound for France transit through other European ports. The goal is to bolster and enhance French maritime logistics performance levels by transforming French ports into strategic logistics hubs through improved organisation of all administrative procedures at the borders (documentary and physical inspections carried out by the DGDDI and the DGAL).

Concurrently, on 1 November 2021, responsibility for the sanitary import inspections of foodstuffs, previously conducted by the DGCCRF, was transferred to French Customs in the ports of Le Havre, Marseille, Fos, Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône and Marseille Marignane.

French Customs' taking over of the border control posts (BCPs) where documentary and physical inspections are carried out is part of the **government's strategy for seamless border crossings for goods**; the transfer is set to continue in 2022. These new responsibilities showcase French Customs' expertise in the management of international flows of goods and emphasise its role as the government department responsible for borders.

French Customs also operates on the seas

Since the National Customs Coast Guard Directorate (DNGCD) was set up on 1 July 2019, French Customs has been consolidating its airborne and naval resources to boost its operational capabilities. As the leading civil government department on the seas, it addresses environmental issues such as rescuing migrants, fighting sea pollution and policing fishing activities.



> Key figures for France Sésame



One month after rollout:

116 user companies

660 appointments made for physical inspections in the three ports

234 user accounts

The France Sésame project involved

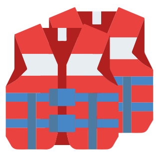
- **Three ministries (the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery, the Ministry of the Ecological Transition and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food);**
- **Four directorates (DGDDI, DGCCRF, DGAL and DGITM).**

9 months design phase

1 panel of 11 economic operators

4 months of tests

RESCUES AT SEA IN 2021



2,557 migrants rescued:
2,418 in the Channel/North Sea,
123 in the Mediterranean
16 in the French West Indies

182 pleasure boaters and sailors rescued


DOUANE



02

SECURING FLOWS OF GOODS

- The fight against tobacco smuggling remains a priority
- 2021, a record year for seizures of narcotics
- Anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism
- Supporting businesses
- Stepping up the fight against counterfeiting
- Protecting cultural property
- Protecting endangered species

SECURING FLOWS OF GOODS



French Customs controls flows of goods to protect the population, the environment and the economy against all forms of trafficking and organised crime.

In 2021, French Customs recorded especially resounding successes with seizures of tobacco, narcotics and counterfeits.

It also supports businesses with their international expansion and by giving greater security to their import/export transactions.

> The fight against tobacco smuggling remains a priority

In 2021, **seizures of tobacco throughout France were** up on the previous year by **over 41%**. More than 400 tonnes of tobacco and cigarettes were seized (all types of tobacco) and the customs departments wrote up 18,284 citations representing an average of 50 offences per day, which was a 19% rise. Some 173 tonnes of cigarettes and 116 tonnes of hookah tobacco were also seized in 2021. In France, the majority of smuggled tobacco is still shipped by road.

The organisations responsible for illegal transnational tobacco trafficking use significant logistics and financial resources. A recent development is the setting up of clandestine production plants and warehouses in western Europe (Belgium, Germany, Spain and Portugal) to bring this illegal tobacco manufacturing closer to consumer countries such as France.

More than ten million cigarettes per day can be produced in these plants. In late 2021, for the first time in France, a customs department dismantled a clandestine workshop manufacturing counterfeit cigarettes.





These organisations supply networks of smugglers and street peddlers as well as sellers who use websites and social media to sell their illegal goods to individuals.

Besides tobacco products smuggled in from non-EU countries, those acquired in other EU Member States with lower taxes on tobacco also account for a large proportion of seizures. These cross-border purchases cater for individuals' personal consumption and supply traffickers.

Concurrently, customs departments closely monitor express freight and postal channels which are used to send sparse quantities of tobacco products in full breach of customs and tax legislation. Distance selling of manufactured tobacco products is banned in France and represents a customs offence.

402.1 t

of tobacco seized in 2021





173 t

of cigarettes seized in 2021

On 9 December 2021, as part of inspection operations overseen by the Seine-et-Marne Operational Department Anti-Fraud Committee (CODAF), officers from the Paris-Est Regional Customs Directorate dismantled a clandestine cigarette manufacturing workshop in the municipality of Poincy, near Meaux in the Greater Paris Region.

A search of the premises confirmed that they were being used to produce counterfeit cigarettes. Bags of raw tobacco, machines for manufacturing cigarettes (fan, mashing, grinding, blister packaging), boxes containing cigarette filters, reels of paper and tubs of glue were found on site.

SECURING FLOWS OF GOODS

> 2021, a record year for seizures of narcotics

Seizures of narcotics by French Customs **jumped by 30%** from 88.72 tonnes in 2020 to 115.4 tonnes in 2021. These customs seizures accounted for 80% of nationwide seizures by all the government's law enforcement departments.

Cocaine trafficking is on the rise in both France and elsewhere in Europe. In 2021, **French Customs seized 18.6 tonnes of cocaine** compared to nine tonnes in 2020, i.e. a 105.5% increase. The majority of the seizures were from maritime containers. French Customs also intercepted almost **75 tonnes of cannabis**, representing a 24% rise, mainly on land (85% of overall cannabis seizures). Carrier convoy activity maintained its previous levels in 2021 with 120 interceptions.

These unprecedented results extend to all types of narcotics (cannabis seizures were up 24%, khat up 32%, heroin up 30%). Volumes of narcotics seized from express freight and postal shipments rose by 35% to 20.9 tonnes in 2021. This channel is frequently used for smuggling synthetic drugs with criminal networks making increased use of it.

There are many reasons behind these excellent results. They highlight the expertise of customs officers as regards flows, and the bolstering of cooperation efforts with all the government departments involved in the national plan for combatting drug trafficking.

Seizures of narcotics abroad following intelligence from French Customs also mushroomed in 2021 and stood at 81.2 tonnes. This bears witness to French Customs' expertise in maritime intelligence.



466 kg

of heroin
(+29.54% over 2020)



+1m

doses of ecstasy



18.62 t

of cocaine
(+105.5% over 2020)



74.9 t

of cannabis
(+24.1% over 2020)

On 25 February 2021, customs officers from the Bourges unit made an extraordinary seizure of almost 918 kilos of cannabis pollen. The officers were on inspection duty on the A71 motorway and singled out an HGV with Romanian plates from amongst the flow of traffic. When they inspected the trailer, the officers discovered a load comprising closed and screwed down wooden crates which contained cannabis pollen packed in synthetic hessian suitcases.

A thorough search of the lorry turned up almost 918 kilos of cannabis pollen with street value of close to €9m.





> Anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism

Fighting the financing of terrorism and money laundering related to criminal activities remains a priority objective for customs departments. The goal is to deprive criminal organisations of the resources and profits connected with their illegal undertakings.

To combat illegal financial flows, the EU's Cash Control Regulation on controls of cash entering or leaving the Union, which entered into force on 3 June 2021, consolidates the system with regard to cross-border cash movements and the powers of customs officers.

The definition of cash has been extended and now covers, for all intra- and extra-European movements, currency, cheques, bearer-negotiable instruments (money orders, promissory notes) and gold (coins, ingots, nuggets).

A new disclosure requirement has been introduced for unaccompanied cash sent by freight, post, express freight or found in unaccompanied luggage.

At the request of customs, a disclosure declaration must be presented by the sender, recipient or designated representative. The powers of customs officers to control movements of cash have also been bolstered.

Customs can also intervene for amounts of less than €10,000 when there are indications that the cash in question is related to criminal activity. It is also now possible for customs officers to decide on the temporary detention of cash for up to 90 days.

Lastly, the new regulation provides for the improved exchange of information between financial intelligence units (Tracfin in France) and the customs authorities of other Member States, as well as with the European Commission, Europol and the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

Creation of the European Public Prosecutor's office

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) began operating on 1 June 2021. It is responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment the perpetrators of crimes against the financial interests of the EU.

Cases concerning customs violations covered by Article 414-2 (intentional customs offence) and Article 415 (customs offence of money laundering) of the French Customs Code must be referred to the EPPO via the competent French Public Prosecutor when they concern the financial interests of the EU and an amount of €10,000 or more.

Cases for lesser amounts may also be referred provided they have ramifications at EU level or implicate EU staff or members of European institutions.

The EPPO has entrusted the SEJF with an initial case for the opening of a judicial investigation.



In 2021, the results of the Financial Investigations Judicial Department (SEJF) returned near to pre-pandemic levels with a substantial 179% increase in criminal assets that were seized or put forward for seizure.

The majority of the figure relates to seizures of movable property, cash or bank accounts. The increase also reflects the predominance of asset audits in the judicial, customs, tax and financial investigations entrusted to the SEJF.



2,638

cases of failure to declare written up for an amount of €70.7m



€125.1m

of seized or identified criminal assets

SECURING FLOWS OF GOODS

> Supporting businesses

2021 was another year shaped by the pandemic. French Customs continued to support importers of protective equipment, with some 55,000 customs declarations filed for surgical, FFP2 and fabric face masks and COVID-19 vaccines and tests.

11,159

declarations for FFP2 masks

9,188

declarations for PCR tests

Providing support to businesses to help them secure their import/export operations is an essential part of French Customs' operations.

One of the resources made available by French Customs is **information about the "Made in France" label**, which businesses can use to highlight French products, gain a competitive advantage on the international market and promote France as an attractive place to do business.





A "Made in France" exhibition at the Élysée Palace

On 3 and 4 July 2021, 126 French-made products, hailing from all over the country's mainland and overseas departments and territories, were exhibited at the Élysée Palace. French Customs contributed its expertise to the exhibit by reviewing over 250 cases to establish their "Made in France" credentials.

Customs representatives were also present on site, alongside DGCCRF and DGE officials, to answer visitors' questions about the "Made in France" information request procedure. Introduced by French Customs in 2016, the procedure allows businesses to secure a "Made in France" label for their products by ensuring they comply with non-preferential rules of origin.

435

"Made in France" label information requests processed in 2021

> Stepping up the fight against counterfeiting

Counterfeiting is a threat not only to consumer health and safety but also to France's economy. In recent years, with the pandemic-related rise of e-commerce and boom in trade, there has been a dramatic increase in counterfeiting, across all types of goods (industrial products, cosmetics, toys, food products) and all means of transport (including express freight and postal shipments).

2021 saw a considerable rise in counterfeit seizures. More than 9.1 million items were seized in France, **an increase of 62% over 2020**. Notable sectors include toys and cosmetics.

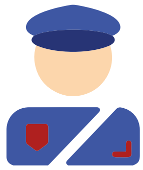
These striking statistics are the result of the 2021–2022 anti-counterfeiting plan, approved by Minister Olivier Dussopt on 22 February 2021, and are a testament to the dedication of French Customs in putting the plan into action.

As for another key component of its anti-counterfeiting activities, French Customs renewed its cooperation agreement with the French Patent Office (INPI) on 16 April 2021.

Following the renewal of the agreement, French Customs and the INPI organised joint webinars at both national and local levels.

In France and abroad, the DGDDI and the INPI both work to protect intellectual property and combat counterfeiting, complementing each other's efforts. The INPI plays an essential role in France by registering intellectual property rights, and the DGDDI is the enforcement arm of the State in the fight against counterfeiting.

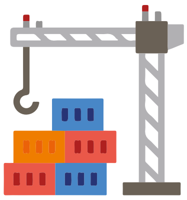




1,491

requests for intervention

of which 499 were approved by France



31.3%

of seizures involved express freight and postal shipments



9.1m

counterfeit products withdrawn from the market by French Customs in 2021

(+62% over 2020)

SECURING FLOWS OF GOODS

> Counterfeiting key figures

Counterfeit products withdrawn from the market in 2021

200,517
food and drink products

1,732,969
personal care products

1,650,490
toys, games and sporting goods

2021–2022 ANTI-COUNTERFEITING PLAN

Four main areas of action

1

Improve cooperation with all anti-counterfeiting stakeholders:

Forge stronger partnerships with online retailers; promote consumer education.

2

Enhance the collection and analysis of intelligence:

Develop new techniques and analysis tools (artificial intelligence and data mining).

3

Strengthen inspection and investigation policies:

Direct customs operations towards logistics flows flagged as high-risk for counterfeiting;
create a customs investigation unit specialising in complex fraud networks.

4

Adapt litigation policy and prosecutions to target strategic anti-counterfeiting issues:

Prosecute the most high-impact consumer protection cases.







> Protecting cultural property

2021 was a turning point in the protection of global cultural heritage. With the entry into force of **Regulation (EU) 2019/880 of 17 April 2019** on the introduction and the import of cultural goods, French Customs can inspect foreign goods introduced into the European Union customs territory to ensure that they have been legally transported out of the country where they were created or discovered. The so-called "general prohibition" rule stems not only from a benevolent effort to protect the world's cultural heritage, but also from anti-terrorist financing policy, with illegal trafficking of cultural property from war zones often used as a source of funding.

In May 2021, for the first time, an exhibition was held at the Louvre featuring still-sealed cultural goods seized by French Customs. The idea was to raise public awareness about the issue of international trafficking in cultural property.



6,377

cultural artefacts seized in 2021

The exhibition included four busts from Libya seized following the Arab Spring and two bas-relief sculptures suspected to have been stolen from Syria.

Standard procedure is for French Customs to hand over seized cultural property to France's museums department, which serves as custodian until the investigation has been completed and then returns the property to the rightful owner.





> Protecting endangered species

The aim of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), also known as the Washington Convention, is to promote the sustainable use of wild species and ensure that biodiversity conservation is not undermined by international trade in protected species, including their pelts, feathers, teeth and derived products (leather, handbags, watchbands, musical instruments, cosmetics).

French Customs, which is responsible for inspections upon import, issued **371 citations in 2021**, an increase of 40% over 2020.



The European eel has been listed as an endangered species since 2009. Due to a surge in demand from Asia for young European eels (known as "glass eels"), illegal eel smuggling has become an issue in France.

Smugglers charge up to €4,000 per kilogram of glass eels. The SEJF uncovered a fraud operation involving complex logistical and financial channels. The international trafficking ring was stopped thanks to cooperation between European police forces via Europol.

Under the operation, glass eels poached by French fishmongers would be transported first to Spain and then on to Asia via logistics centres established in Asian countries. Eel smuggling is a lucrative business, currently estimated to be worth €18.5m, and international investigations were also able to uncover the methods used to launder the proceeds of this illegal activity.





03

INNOVATING IN OUR OPERATIONS

> Equipping customs officers with innovative solutions

> Making a commitment to modernisation with a service level and resources contract

INNOVATING IN OUR OPERATION

DATA



Faced with major shifts in international flows of goods and a growing number of new threats, a strong customs system is vital.

Border operations and the movement of goods are being affected by fundamental changes: trade tensions, the rise of e-commerce, increasingly violent organised crime.

Faced with increasing demand in the areas of protection, sovereignty and border control, French Customs is upgrading and innovating to deliver on its mission.

> Equipping customs officers with innovative solutions



After a one-year pilot phase, **the AGNet radio communication system was rolled out in October 2021** to all domestic (BSI) and external (BSE) surveillance units across all areas covered by Customs Operations Centres (CODTs) in mainland France, with DNRED offices and local SEJF units to come next. The rollout is expected to be completed in mid-2022.

The AGNet system includes a range of equipment specific to the different working environments of customs officers (CODT operators, officers on foot patrol, motorcycle teams). Officers were given training, in collaboration with Airbus, on topics such as radio voice procedure. The goal of the system is to ensure the security of officers' communications and operations.

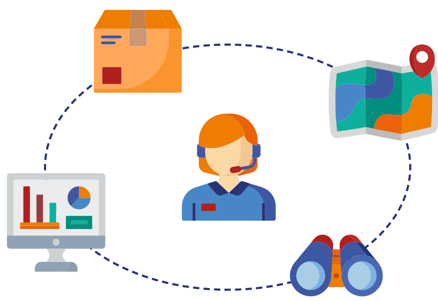
5,700

Surveillance officers equipped with the AGNet radio system



S





Using customs data for better targeting

Customs declarations, information provided by economic operators, findings of inspections: these are all sources of data recorded in customs systems. This wealth of data is a valuable resource for French Customs, which aspires to use the latest trends in data science to benefit its entire workforce. By applying developments in big data processing, French Customs can improve its ability to target illegal flows of goods, offer better support to businesses, provide better-quality service to users and equip officers with better resources, potentially transforming the way they work (surveillance, HR, economic action).

This modernisation and innovation initiative was launched under the *Valorisation de la donnée* (VDD) programme, co-developed by the Directorate General and the SARC, which was the first customs department to use data mining and assign teams of data scientists and analysts to data processing projects. Several tools have already been introduced to address issues such as improving the efficiency of customs inspections (detecting anomalies for better targeting) and providing better business services (mapping local economic activity or global flows of goods for a business).

The ultimate aim is to leverage data tools to enhance the full range of customs operations, from inspections and customs clearance to business support and wine-growing units.

INNOVATING IN OUR OPERATION

To help detect online fraud, French Customs has been trialling the use of "web scraping", where automated tools are used to extract large amounts of content and links from public web pages for analysis.

A pilot phase was launched in 2021 to search for tobacco products being sold online on ad-posting sites and social media. The process involved finding illegal ads (since selling tobacco products online is against the law) and collecting information on the seller and, if applicable, the buyer.

The technical side of the initiative is headed up by the DNRED's *Cyberdouane* unit, working with two data scientists and a data engineer from the new Data Science Office, alongside engineers from the Customs IT Centre. Their work involves:

- designing and building a dedicated data collection infrastructure;
- developing data collection scripts in line with laws and regulations;
- designing data science models to detect illegal activity and identify the offence using cutting-edge data science algorithms (machine learning, artificial intelligence, etc.);
- producing a list of potential fraud cases for investigation and identifying the most appropriate customs procedure or course of action.

> Making a commitment to modernisation with a service level and resources contract

The contract secures French Customs' modernisation plans, which focus on its two core operational concerns: borders and goods. It is a deal based on trust and responsibility that will ensure French Customs has the resources it needs to carry out its mission.

Trust, as it involves implementing an innovative governance framework based on the enhancement of French Customs' financial management tools.

Responsibility, because it commits French Customs to ambitious performance enhancement targets over the next few years in the areas of controlling borders, inspecting goods, protecting businesses and citizens, and developing cutting-edge capabilities.

For French Customs, the contract is a guarantee of financial and human resources through 2025, ensuring in particular the stability of its workforce for its core operations and an increase in operating and investment appropriations.

For the 2022–2025 period, French Customs will receive an additional €148m.

€20.3m
to upgrade computer systems and digital tools

€20m
for nine new scanners

€4.1m
for new phones and computers

€12.9m
for real estate projects (renovations or new builds)

€15m
for two new helicopters

€12m
for inspection equipment

€ 450 K
in additional funding for laboratories

€12m
for two coastguard patrol boats

S

PEOPLE

HR key figures

16,748

Employees



38.4%

Women



51.8%

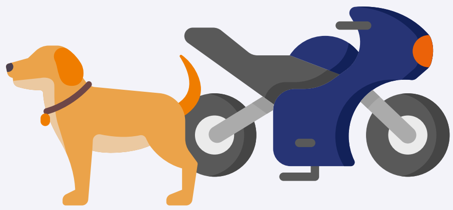
Employees in general administration/trade operations



48.2%

Uniformed and armed surveillance officers

Specialists



Maritime officers	550
Airborne officers	141
Motorcyclists	247
Dog handlers	258
Investigators and intelligence officers (DNRED)	790
Judicial customs officers	255
IT staff	437

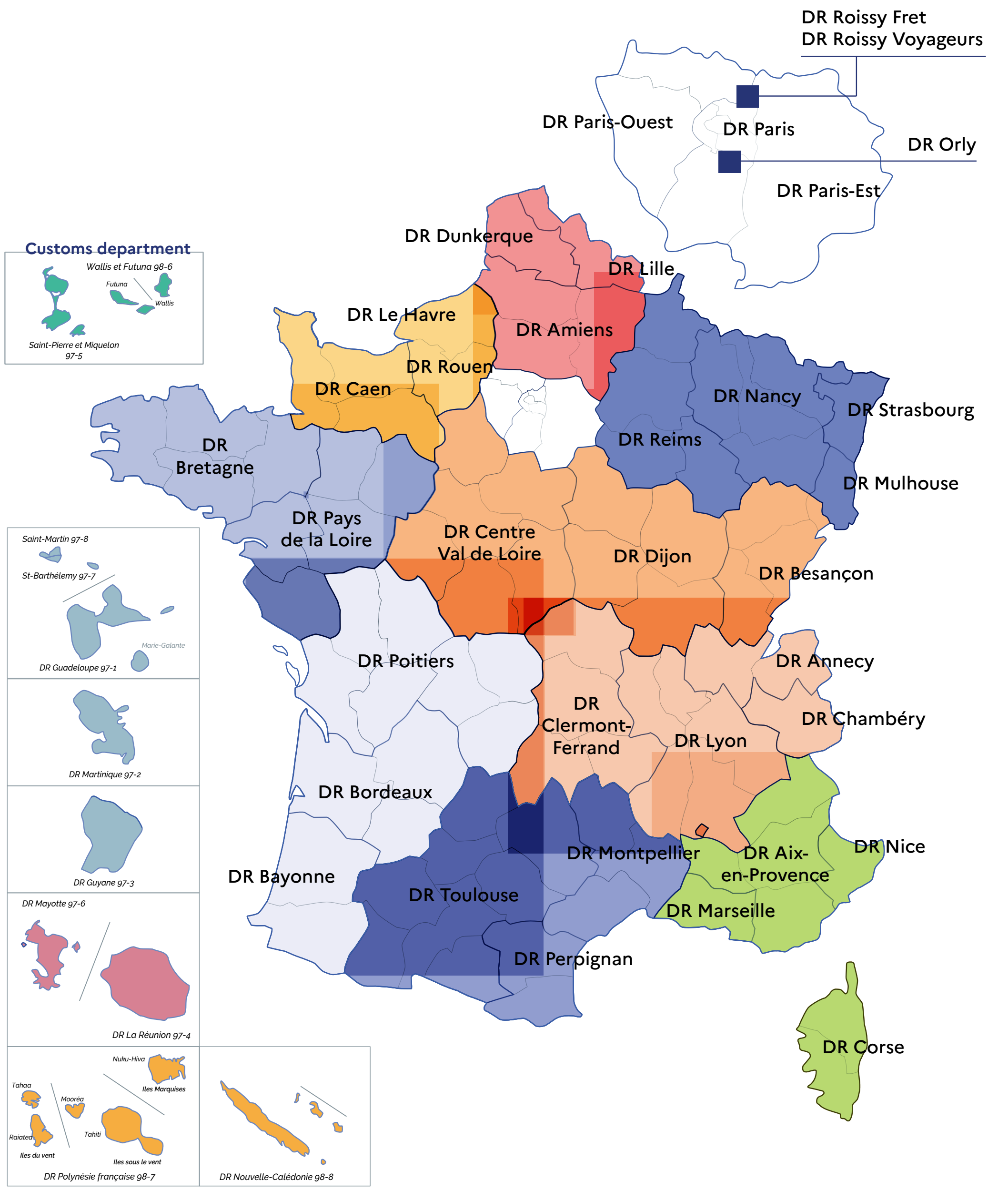




APPENDICES

APPENDICES

> Regional organisation of the DGDDI
(mainland and overseas France as at 1 July 2020)



Key

- DI Hauts-de-France
- DI Grand-Est
- DI Bourgogne-Franche-Comté-Centre-Val de Loire
- DI Antilles-Guyane
- DI Normandie
- DI Bretagne-Pays de la Loire
- DI Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- DI Île-de-France
- DI Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- DI Occitanie
- DI Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur-Corse
- DI Paris-Aéroports

DR: Regional Directorate
DI: Inter-Regional Directorate

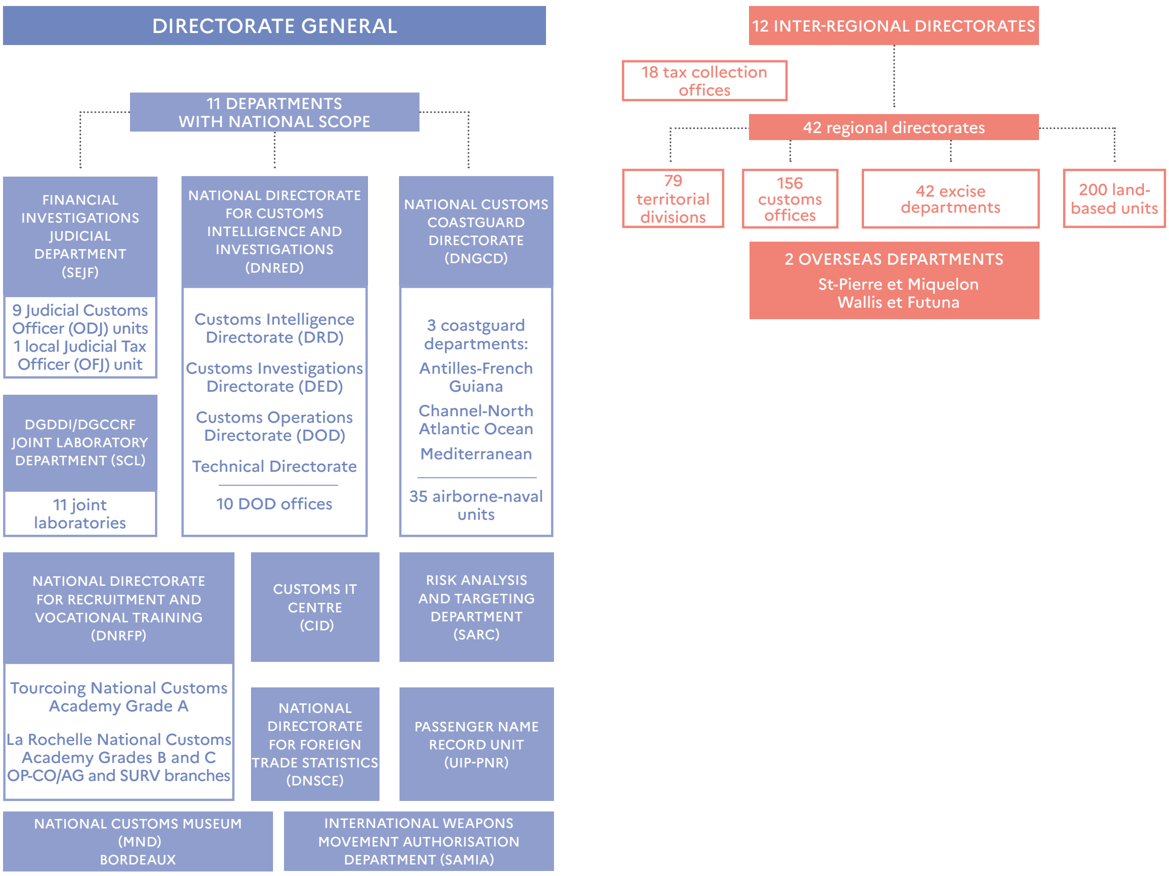
> Budgetary and material resources

BUDGETARY
(Expenditure expressed in €m excluding the Joint Laboratory Department (SCL) and contributions to the special pensions allocation account)

STAFF	860.14
OPERATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	264.6
INTERVENTIONS	98.3
INVESTMENT	33.9
PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	379.38

LAND-BASED FLEET	Vehicles	2,718	2,764
	Motorcycles	464	437
NAVAL AND AIR FLEETS	53-metre coastguard patrol vessels	1	1
	43-metre coastguard patrol vessels	2	2
	19- to 32-metre coastguard patrol boats	15	15
	10- to 14-metre inshore patrol vessels	13	13
	Teaching vessels	4	3
	Twin-engine aircraft	7	7
	Helicopters	9 (incl. 5 EC 135s)	9 (incl. 5 EC 135s)
DETECTION EQUIPMENT	Fixed scanners	1	1
	Mobile scanners	3	3
	X-ray machines	90	98
	Density meters	125	125
	Particle analysers	57	51
	Survey meters	68	68
	Spectrometers	98	98

> Operational organisation of French Customs



APPENDICES

> Customs taxation: in millions of euros

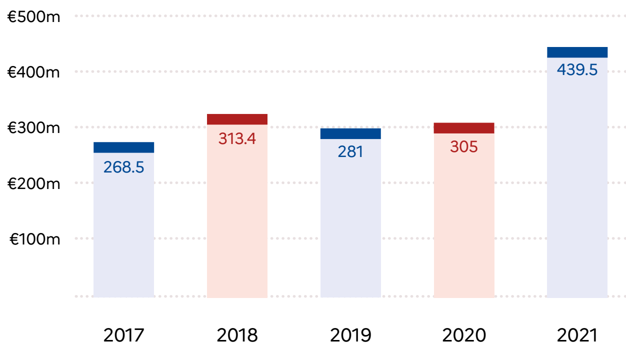
CUSTOMS REVENUE IN MILLIONS OF EUROS (breakdown)

	2020	2021
CUSTOMS CLEARANCE	7,556	9,334
Customs duties	2,087	2,408
Import VAT	5,450	6,875
Other	19	51
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT	47,009	42,512
TICPE	28,451	31,991
TSC DOM	502	533
VAT on fuel	8,021	259*
TICGN + TICFE + TICHLC	9,555	9,690
Taxes and remuneration on behalf of oil industry professionals	9	8
TGAP	471	32*
EXCISE DUTIES (CI)	19,339	19,339
Alcohol and beverages	4,003	4,130
Tobacco	15,328	15,204
Other excise duties	8	5
DOCK DUES AND MARITIME ACTIVITIES	1,833	2,027
Dock dues	1,313	1,485
Port dues	475	492
DAFN	45	49
TAX ON CERTAIN ROAD VEHICLES (TSVR – AXLE TAX)	175	11*
OTHER TAXES	362	325
TOTAL	76,274	73,548

- **TICPE:** domestic tax on consumption of energy products.
- **TSC DOM:** special consumption tax in overseas départements.
- **TICGN**: domestic tax on consumption of natural gas
- **TICFE**: domestic tax on consumption of electricity by end-users.
- **TICHLC:** domestic consumption tax on coal, brown coal and coke, known as the "coal tax".
- **TGAP:** general tax on polluting activities.
- **DAFN**: annual flagging and navigation tax.

*Tax transfer effective 1 January 2021

DUTIES AND TAXES REASSESSED SINCE 2016 (IN MILLIONS OF EUROS)



General data on narcotics and tobacco

GENERAL DATA* ON SEIZURES BY FRENCH CUSTOMS BY TYPE OF PRODUCT

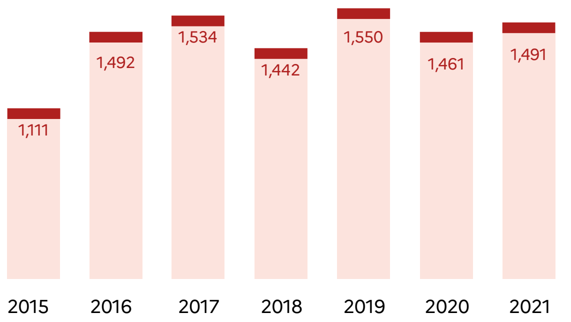
* Rounded to the nearest tenth.

	2020	2021
	QUANTITY/DOSES (D)*	QUANTITY/DOSES (D)*
SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS	Seized in France and in international waters	Seized in France and in international waters
Cocaine	9 t	18.62 t
Cannabis	60.30 t	74.86 t
Khat	14.61 t	19.23 t
Heroin and opiates	359.8 kg	466 kg
Amphetamines	359 kg et 941 d	180 kg et 10,681 d
Synthetic drugs	1,161 kg et 27,132 d	1,012 kg et 24,163 d
LSD	15,701 d	28,123 d
Ecstasy	833,974 d	1,071,195 d
Psychotropics	563 kg et 165,831 d	472 kg et 91,800 d
Precursors	1.16 t	0.19 t
Others narcotics	183.5 kg	394 kg
GRAND TOTAL	88.72 t	115.4 t

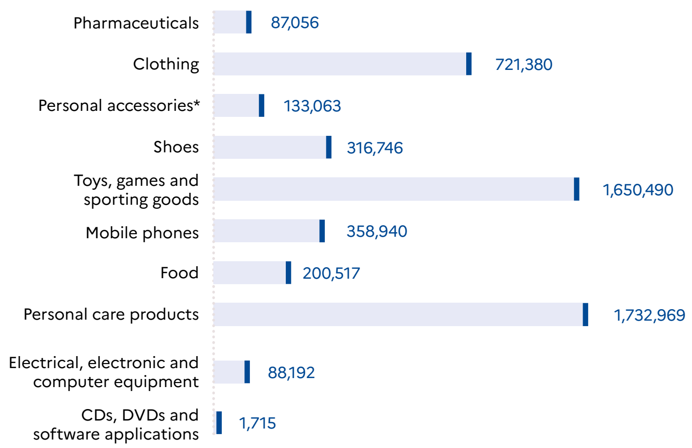
	2020		2021	
	QUANTITY/DOSES (D)*		QUANTITY/DOSES (D)*	
SEIZURES OF TOBACCO	Seized in France and in international waters	Seized abroad	Seized in France and in international waters	Seized abroad
Tobacco	284.54 t	0.07 t	402.07 t	53.3 t
CITATIONS	15,441		18,284	

> Counterfeits

NUMBER OF REQUESTS BY BUSINESSES FOR INTERVENTION BY FRENCH CUSTOMS TO INTERCEPT COUNTERFEITS

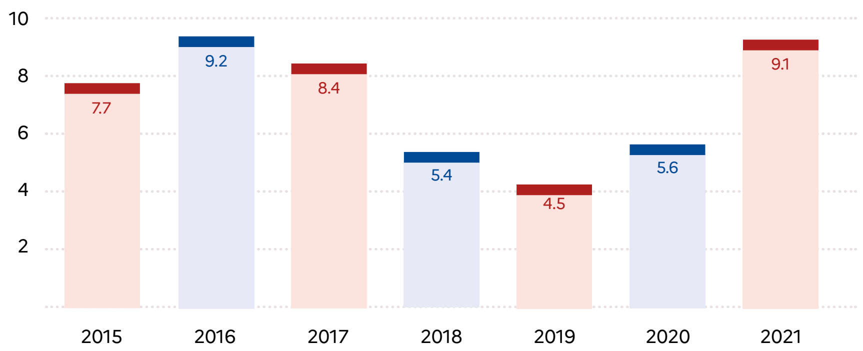


COUNTERFEIT ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM THE MARKET BY TYPE OF PRODUCT (IN NUMBER OF ITEMS)



Spectacles/sunglasses, bags, jewellery, etc.

COUNTERFEIT ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM THE MARKET SINCE 2015 (IN MILLIONS OF ITEMS)



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